

OCTOBER 12, 2011 – NOTES OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE SEVIER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION AT A MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 12, 2011, AT 3:00 PM IN THE SEVIER SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE.

In attendance were President Clint Johnson, members Tom Hales, Don Naser, and Richard Orr, as were Superintendent Myron Mickelsen, Assistant Superintendent Gail Albrecht, Business Administrator Patrick D. Wilson, and Executive Secretary Patricia Sanchez. Vice President Jack Hansen was excused.

Also in attendance were Secretary Mavane Loftus, Zion's Wealth Advisors Jason Williams and Gerry Hassell, Student Learning Director Cade Douglas, SEA President Barry Erickson, teachers Rand Janes and Gaylene Dobish, and Snow College Richfield Secretary Patsy Ann Daniels.

President Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting, offered the reverence, and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #2. – ZION'S WEALTH ADVISORS. Mr. Wilson introduced Zion's Wealth Advisors representatives Jason Williams and Gerry Hassell to the group. He explained that the District has been looking at other alternative investment options other than PTIF and was approached by Zion's Wealth, which is a subsidiary of Zion's Bank that provides alternative investment options to local governments. District administration had met with Zion's Wealth Advisors and reviewed the information and requested that they provide a presentation to the Board regarding the options available. The investment options are compliant with the Utah Money Management Act and have the potential to increase the interest earnings for the District.

Jason Williams, Vice President Portfolio Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation to the group. He explained that the company's strategies aim to enhance earnings on cash while providing required liquidity. A client's portfolio diversification may be grouped in layers, such as operating cash, core cash, and portfolio investments. He explained the company's fee schedule and reported that their capabilities are state-of-the-art.

Mr. Wilson commented that at one time the District was making between \$500,000 & \$600,000 in interest and now only making around a \$100,000. The District has taken \$3 million in cuts from the legislature, approximately a half-million dollar cut from the markets as the federal government is trying to keep interest rates low. The District will still keep some investments with the PTIF; however, this alternative investment option with Zion's Wealth could increase interest for the District by approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year.

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ITEM #3. – CONSENT AGENDA. President Johnson asked for a motion to add supplemental packet #1 to the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Richard Orr seconded by Tom Hales to add Supplemental #1, Approval of Employees, to the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

President Johnson called for objections on the consent agenda. Since there were no objections, the consent agenda received Board approval.

ITEM #3.A. – APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Minutes from the September 14, 2011, Board Meeting were approved.

ITEM #3.B. – NEW POLICY #3250, CONCUSSION/HEAD INJURY – FIRST READING. Due to some minor changes made to the proposed policy, it was presented again for first reading approval. Revisions to the new policy received first reading approval.

ITEM #3.C. – SEVIER DISTRICT'S CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION. The proposed consolidated application received Board approval.

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ITEM #3.D. – CONCURRENCE WITH NAVAJO LANGUAGE, MAINTENANCE, RESTORATION, AND ENHANCEMENT. Sevier School District works to improve the English Language abilities for dorm students identified as needing improvement. This instruction and assessment generates additional Title III language development funds. Navajo Language Maintenance, Restoration, and Enhancement for dorm students also generate Title III language development funds. The Richfield Residential Hall will oversee those students who take and complete the Navajo Language classes, via electronic high school. Upon documentation of per student completion, Indian Student Education Program (ISEP) funds generated will be paid by Sevier School District to the Richfield Residential Hall. The funding agreement received Board approval.

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ITEM #3.E. – FINANCIAL SUMMARY. The financial summary for the period ending September 30, 2011, was approved as well as the list of checks issued in September 2011.

ITEM #3.F. – ADDENDUM – APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEES. The following individuals were approved for employment: **Stephanie Mason** as an instructional assistant at Salina Elementary (*one year only*); **Erin Holt** as an instructional assistant at Salina Elementary (*one year only*); **Angie Spafford** as a non-location instructional assistant for the Special Needs program (*one year only*); **Brittanie Dalley** as an instructional assistant at Salina Elementary (*one year only*); **Jamie Adams** as a library / media technician at South Sevier Middle (*temporary*); **Robert Bowers** as a noon-duty supervisor at Salina Elementary (*year to year*); and **Pam Rosenberg** as a bus assistant for the South Sevier attendance area.

ITEM #5.A. – DISCUSSION – ITEMS FROM THE BOARD. The following items were discussed:

- The Board was reminded of the USBA Regional Meeting on Thursday, October 27 at 6:00 p.m.
- Mr. Hales explained the proposed changes to the UHSAA ballots. They were reviewed, discussed, and voted on.

A motion was made by Richard Orr and seconded by Tom Hales to vote NO the Constitutional ballots C86, C87, & C88. Motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made by Tom Hales and seconded by Don Naser to vote YES on By-Laws ballots B86, B87, & B88. Motion passed unanimously.

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- Audit exit conference: Mr. Orr commented that everyone who had anything to do with the audit knew exactly what they were doing and did it very well. He felt very secure in the knowledge that things are handled very well in the District Office. President Johnson concurred with Mr. Orr's remarks and said that he was always amazed that with such a huge budget there were so few problems.

Mr. Wilson expressed appreciation and praised the work and dedication of the business finance team that includes Kari Carter, Jodi Prisbrey, Denise Harvey, Gloria Jackman, and Patti Sanchez.

ITEM #4. – PATRON DIALOGUE. Mavanee Loftus thanked the Board and Administration for the new parking lot at the Support Services warehouse.

Richfield High School teacher Rand Janes had questions and concerns regarding the drop in pay for assistant coaches. Mr. Wilson explained that 3A has a sophomore program and 2A does not, and that's where the differences come in from going 3A back to 2A. He also explained that the District has nothing in the system that supports the ping-pong back and forth from 2A to 3A; that is something the Utah High School Athletic Association changed. Mr. Wilson has been working with Principal Brown to find solutions to this challenge; however, there are no solutions at this point.

ITEM 5.B. – DISCUSSION – ITEMS FROM ADMINISTRATION. The following items were discussed:

Items from Superintendent Mickelsen

- Superintendent Mickelsen explained some of the items that Districts are becoming aware of as they begin working with the State Board, USOE, and the legislature. It isn't definite that the Local Control Reform Act will become a bill through Senator Osmond, who chairs the Educational Policy Committee. There has been some communication in the state about a proposed bill to create Independent Public Schools Board (IPSB), which would be to select, empower, and develop a base of independent schools over time within the existing public school system; converting community councils to independent school boards, to have authority over specific budget, staffing, and curriculum decisions.

- Superintendent Mickelsen explained the three concepts that will evolve from Superintendent Shumway's Orderly Termination Act for certified staff to obtain tenure. 1) He recommends leaving this decision with district local boards and not making it a state mandate, 2) limit duration of expected employment to 5 years or 10 years, and, 3) create performance pay developed by local boards.

- Underperforming schools: On the State Board website, there is a site that shows the ranking order of how well students are achieving at individual schools. This came from Senator Howard Stephenson several years ago. It's felt that Superintendent Shumway may look at those underachieving schools and see what state resources are needed to help them improve. Senator

Stephenson's philosophy would be to open up the lower ranking schools for bid by private schools. Mr. Wilson commented that Senator Stephenson's school grading bill, SB 59, would be that any school receiving an *F* would be put up for privatization.

- State Board priorities: Superintendent Mickelsen spoke in favor of their priorities. One of their proposals is that the State of Utah has a constitutional obligation to fund growth.

College & career readiness – EPAS, which is the EXPLORE, PLAN & ACT assessments: The District is in its fourth year with EPAS. The State Board has Senator Margaret Dayton sponsoring the bill for EPAS to be used statewide. Also, the State Board has Senator Greg Hughes sponsoring the bill for statewide adaptive testing (NWEA). These two bills are to be presented to the Education Interim Committee at their next meeting.

- There was a brief discussion in regards to redistricting and who would be responsible to make that change. Mr. Wilson explained that a certain percentage of growth has to take place outside of the voting districts to constitute redistricting. There are so many registered voters in each district, and if they get out of balance, then it would be the responsibility of the county to redistrict, not the school district.

Items from Cade Douglas

- Education effectiveness project Internet presentation: Mr. Douglas explained that educator evaluations should be taken from a variety of evidences and that is why Sevier District has been trying to come up with a plan to address this issue. He said that data was the key and is an accurate reflection of how students are doing. Educators as a whole have never been evaluated on data/student achievement in the past. Sevier District's plan is a combination of proficiency and growth and a lot of that is being accomplished through iObservation. The project is designed to give evidence to trigger support, not to dismiss struggling educators. Evidence is more valid than judgment. To view the Internet presentation, go to: <http://prezi.com/6j5tmlwqn2t3/teacher-evaluation/>

- Early-out survey: Mr. Douglas commented that the subject of the early release day and what is being done with that time is being heavily talked about throughout the state. The whole purpose of the early release day is for teachers to get together and discuss lesson plans, analyze data, etc. Data is being collected statewide on why some districts have and others do not have an early release day, what day and why that day, and how is that time being used. The current practice for the early release day in Sevier District is not working. The extra time is not being used for the right purposes. Teachers need time to be able to analyze data as well as instructional practices.

Superintendent Mickelsen reported that secondary principals are asking the District for help as to how to provide time for teachers and administrators to collaborate and discuss data and enhance their roles in professional development. He also stated that the legislature is requiring this year for an evaluation on all educators. In a short amount of time, they will develop a state evaluation instrument for both teachers and building level administrators. With legislative pressure in the next two to three years, districts will be required to have an evaluation instrument consistent with the state parameters and guidelines. Performance pay will become an issue; however, he felt the District could develop an evaluation tool with performance pay.

Items from Pat Wilson

- Necessarily Small Schools: Mr. Wilson explained that one item appears to have gained momentum in the state that came out of Duchesne School District and from Representative Merlynn Newbold, which is a desire to pull the Necessary Existent Small Schools (NESS)

funding into the WPU. The state constitution is based on equity and the question is how do you achieve equity against a teacher who has six of the same preps everyday versus teachers who teach different subject areas six preps per day. Back in 1995, the fight for small schools funding began and it took approximately four years to accomplish. Districts with small schools had to battle the governor and the USOE. Eventually, Representative Bradley Johnson sponsored a bill at the legislature to secure \$3 million to balance the equity issue that existed with school districts, which was successful. There are approximately 26 districts that receive NESS funding. To be a NESS school there are two factors involved, 1) a student in grades K-6 must be on a bus for 45 minutes one-way from a school-to-school basis, and 2) maximum consolidation in an effort to facilitate full building capacity.

Mr. Wilson reported that business administrators met earlier this week and discussed this issue. They are working together to provide information to substantiate data to derail this issue and keep NESS funding in tact. Also, there will be a push to get more funding. NESS is defined as when there is a need in a school to create a school in a location that gives students, without having to travel maximum distances, an opportunity to gain an adequate or equitable education in comparison to other schools within the state. The legislature feels that every student can be educated for the same cost.

Mr. Wilson invited the Board to a meeting sponsored by CUES for superintendents, business administrators, and legislative representatives from rural districts on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. in the Sevier District Office Board Room. He will prepare and provide a PowerPoint presentation that includes data from Sevier and other surrounding districts to support the need to keep NESS funding.

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Items from Gail Albrecht

- Mrs. Albrecht stated that the bills for EPAS and adaptive testing would have large support due to Superintendent Mickelsen's excellent presentation to the local and Salt Lake Chamber's of Commerce, sponsors of the Prosperity 2020 effort.
- iObservation: Principals and observers are well into observing and teachers are more aware of the strategies and the structure of iObservation and what the research is telling them. This year, far more teachers have set a focus. Principals have also set a focus in a variety of ways.
- PLC's: Teachers have made comments about feeling more supported through their department's work and appreciate the time they have to study together.
- NWEA updates: Mrs. Albrecht commented that the Fall testing is almost completed and that it is very important because students have been out of school during the summer months, and this data helps determine where intervention funds are needed.
- Common core: Efforts to implement the Common Core are evident throughout the District. For example, in one elementary, all art projects will be accompanied by student writing. They are also doing some scientific writing. Mrs. Albrecht stated that she was very pleased to see the increased rigor as well as the increased writing.

Items from Pat Wilson

- Construction update/change orders:
North Sevier High School Vo Ag Shop addition and remodel: He reported that the fence is in the process of being installed and the project is within a few items of being completed. The two vocational offices in the basement of the District Office have been finished and now

occupied. Mr. Wilson reviewed the NSHS change order summary and the MES/PES change orders with the group.

Monroe/Pahvant Elementary restroom upgrade and remodel: The restrooms project has been a challenge, especially at Monroe; however, it was much needed and came out very well.

The South Sevier Middle HVAC upgrade is 99 percent completed and down to a few items on the punch list.

Site improvements 2011: The two porches/steps on the south side of the District Office have been replaced, the parking lot at warehouse has been paved and includes a new security gate to enclose the vehicles to help eliminate vandalism. Improvements at Salina Elementary, Monroe Elementary, South Sevier High, South Sevier Middle, and the District Office are completed, with the exception of some minor items at South Sevier Middle. A change order summary for the site improvements were reviewed with the group.

- October student count: The USOE has had major clearinghouse issues and has extended the student count date. The District is not sure on the count but feels that enrollment is down by about 30-40 students. The new online school has helped offset some of the decline of students in the classroom.

Free & reduced percentages: All attendance areas are well over 50 percent for free and reduced meals. A few years back, the District didn't even approach 50 percent as an attendance area. It has been more so in the elementary schools and not in the secondary schools. These percentages show the economic climate.

- Secure Rural Schools: This was looking very positive and moving forward and then came the debt ceiling debate, and now this issue appears to be dead. Mrs. Albrecht was in Washington, DC last week lobbying on behalf of the District. She explained that the Apple Initiative has resurfaced and provides a broader range of support to the state rather than to individual Districts. Senator Harry Reid has to stay true to the Democratic Party, now that the parties are split; however, this funding source benefits Nevada to a greater extent than to Utah. Mr. Wilson explained that the Secure Rural Schools funding goes to the impacted counties and schools and the Apple Initiative funding goes to the state, which will be much more supported by the state because it's now new revenue to them and it's a loss of revenue to the rural schools. The approximate loss to Sevier District is \$500,000.

ITEM #6. – CLOSED MEETING. A motion was made at 6:06 p.m. by Don Naser and seconded by Richard Orr to take a break and go into the Closed Meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual(s), negotiations, real property, and litigation. Voting went as follows: yes – Clint Johnson, Tom Hales, Don Naser, and Richard Orr. Motion passed.

In attendance were President Clint Johnson, members Tom Hales, Don Naser, and Richard Orr, as were Superintendent Myron Mickelsen, Assistant Superintendent Gail Albrecht, Business Administrator Patrick D. Wilson, and Executive Secretary Patricia Sanchez. Vice President Jack Hansen was excused.

A motion was made at 6:34 p.m. by Richard Orr and seconded by Don Naser to go out of a Closed Meeting. Voting went as follows: yes – Clint Johnson, Tom Hales, Don Naser, and Richard Orr. Motion passed.

Superintendent Mickelsen was excused at 6:44 p.m.

ITEM #7. – ACTION ITEMS. A motion was made by Don Naser and seconded by Richard Orr to approve change orders #2-9 for the Monroe and Pahvant Elementary School restrooms remodel, and change order #4 for site improvements. Motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made by Don Naser and seconded by Tom Hales to approve the proposal with Zion's Wealth Advisors. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made at 6:45 p.m. by Tom Hales and seconded by Don Naser to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

I certify that upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the Board of Education of the Sevier School District approved the foregoing minutes on the 16th day of November 2011. I further certify that a quorum of the Board was present on both the day covered by these minutes and the day of approval.

Patrick Wilson, Business Administrator